

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-19. (cancelled)

20. (previously presented) Steering shaft universal double joint for motor vehicles with shaft ends fastened against rotation in the universal double joint, these ends being held for movement in a housing joining two single joints and the shaft ends being joined together between the two single joints by a ball joint so that a ball, connected to one of the shaft ends, is mounted for rotation about a center point of the ball in a socket of the other shaft end and is slidably movable in the direction of the shaft axis of the other shaft end, wherein the socket is resiliently pivotably mounted to the other shaft end.

21. (previously presented) Universal double joint according to claim 20, further comprising:

a slide bushing held by the socket, the slide bushing being enveloped at least partially by the socket and being disposed between the ball and the socket.

22. (currently amended) Universal double joint ~~Joint~~ according to claim 20, wherein ~~the resilient mounting~~ the resiliently pivotably mounting of the socket in the other shaft end includes metal springs, ~~preferably plate springs~~.

23. (previously presented) Universal double joint according to claim 21, wherein the resiliently pivotably mounting of the socket in the other shaft end includes metal springs.

24. (currently amended) Universal double joint Joint according to claim 20,  
wherein ~~the resilient mounting~~ the resiliently pivotably mounting of the socket  
in the other shaft end includes elastomeric spring pads, ~~preferably with annular pads between~~  
~~washers of, for example, metal.~~

25. (previously presented) Universal double joint according to claim 23,  
wherein the metal springs are plate springs, and  
wherein the plate springs are biased against the socket, so that the shaft axis,  
when in the unstressed position, is aligned with the axis of the socket.

26. (currently amended) Universal double joint Joint according to claim 21 ~~any~~  
~~one of the foregoing claims,~~  
wherein the bushing consists of a sintered metal, ~~preferably with a supporting~~  
~~sleeve or a lubricant coating.~~

27. (previously presented) Universal double joint according to claim 21,  
wherein the bushing is slotted such that the bushing is resiliently movable in a  
radial direction.

28. (currently amended) Universal double joint Joint according to claim 21,  
wherein the bushing envelops the ball in a wear- and tolerance-equalizing  
manner in any working position, the bushing being installed in the ~~tumbler guide~~ socket with  
~~clearance approaching about zero~~ clearance.

29. (previously presented) Universal double joint according to claim 21,  
wherein at the other shaft end, an annular chamber is formed to accommodate  
a pre-biased spring disposed between a first flange on the shaft end side and a second flange

on the socket, so that the socket can tumble resiliently about the shaft axis in case of radial action by a force.

30. (previously presented) Universal double joint according to claim 21,  
wherein the bushing is held in an axial direction at at least one end by the socket by a rim or by claws.
31. (currently amended) Universal double joint ~~Joint~~ according to claim 21,  
wherein, between the bushing and the ~~tumbler-guide~~ socket, a plastic sleeve, ~~preferably slotted and tapered, and preferably of POM~~ is provided, and it the plastic sleeve is ~~preferably~~ under pressure applied by a spring.
32. (currently amended) Universal double joint ~~Joint~~ according to claim 20,  
wherein a plastic sliding guide is provided between the socket and the ball such that it the plastic sliding guide receives the ball for rotational movement and is carried for sliding movement in the axial direction by the socket, the guide being ~~preferably~~ injection-molded directly onto the ball.
33. (currently amended) Universal double joint ~~Joint~~ according to claim 32,  
wherein the socket has ~~spring-finger-like~~ spring-finger structure on its circumference and resiliently grips the plastic sliding guide between the ball and the socket.
34. (currently amended) Universal double joint ~~Joint~~ according to claim 32,  
wherein the plastic sliding guide is enveloped in an outer wall area by a pre-biased plastic spring which slides in the socket, this spring ~~preferably~~ having slots in its circumference, so that it can breathe in the radial direction.

35. (currently amended) Universal double joint ~~Joint~~ according to claim 33,

wherein the plastic sliding guide is enveloped in an outer wall area by a pre-biased plastic spring which slides in the socket, this spring ~~preferably~~ having slots in its circumference, so that it can breathe in the radial direction.

36. (previously presented) Universal double joint according to claim 20,

wherein on an inner wall of the housing an abutment structure is provided for the ball and the socket.

37. (previously presented) Universal double joint according to claim 36,

wherein the abutment structure is so configured that the ball and the socket define given allowable positions in all extreme joint deflections and in the case of assembly, the abutment structure being so configured that in case of abutment first the socket and then the ball makes contact.

38. (cancelled).

39. (previously presented) Universal double joint according to claim 23,

wherein the metal springs include plate springs.

40. (previously presented) Universal double joint according to claim 21,

wherein the socket is resiliently supported in the axial direction.

41. (previously presented) Universal double joint according to claim 21,

wherein the slide bushing is resiliently held by the socket.

42-43. (cancelled).

44. (previously presented) A steering shaft universal double joint for motor vehicles, comprising:

two shaft ends;

two single joints, each shaft end being connected to one of the joints;

a housing joining the two single joints; and

a socket and a ball joint disposed in the socket, the shaft ends being joined together between the two single joints by the ball joint and socket, wherein the ball joint is associated with one of the shaft ends and is able to rotate in the socket and slidingly movable in the direction of the shaft axis of the other shaft end, and wherein the socket is resiliently pivotably connected to the other shaft end.

45. (previously presented) The universal double joint according to claim 44, further comprising:

a bushing disposed between the ball joint and the socket, wherein the bushing is resiliently disposed in the socket.

46. (previously presented) The universal double joint according to claim 44, wherein the socket is resiliently supported in the axial direction by the other shaft end.

47. (cancelled)

48. (previously presented) The universal double joint according to claim 45, further comprising:

a spring, wherein the socket is resiliently pivotably mounted to the other shaft end using the spring, and the spring biases the socket to a position where an axis of the socket is aligned with an axis of the other shaft end.

49. (previously presented) The universal double joint according to claim 48,

wherein the socket is resiliently supported in the axial direction by the spring.

50. (previously presented) The universal double joint according to claim 45,

wherein the bushing is slotted such that the bushing is resiliently movable in a radial direction within the socket.

51. (currently amended) The universal double joint according to claim 50,

wherein the bushing envelops the ball in a wear- and tolerance-equalizing manner, the bushing being installed in the socket with zero clearance.

52. (currently amended) The universal double joint according to claim 44, further comprising:

a slotted and tapered plastic sleeve disposed between the bushing and the socket.

53. (currently amended) The universal double joint according to claim 44, further comprising:

a plastic sliding guide disposed between the socket and the ball such that the plastic sliding guide receives the ball for rotational movement and is carried for sliding movement in the axial direction by the socket

54. (currently amended) The universal double joint according to claim 53,

wherein the sliding guide is injection-molded directly onto the ball.

55. (currently amended) The universal double joint according to claim 53,

wherein the plastic sliding guide is enveloped in an outer wall area by a pre-biased plastic spring which slides in the socket, the plastic spring having slots in a circumference of the spring, so that the plastic spring can breathe in the radial direction.

56. (previously presented) The universal double joint according to claim 44,

wherein the other shaft end includes an annular chamber containing a spring disposed between a first flange on the side of the other shaft and a second flange on the socket, so that the socket can tumble resiliently about the shaft axis when subjected to a radial force.